

high-ranking officials from Justice and Homeland Security—stated that there is no cross-border violence.

This is completely unacceptable. If the Federal Government cannot even define what endangers border citizens, we cannot ensure their safety. H.R. 6368 is simple. It is straightforward. It is a bill that will address this very problem.

It directs the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress on their ability to define, to track, to investigate, and to quantify cross-border, or spillover, violence.

The Departments of Justice and Homeland Security will furthermore report what information and statistics are available and that are at their disposal in order to understand the amount of violence spilling into the United States. The ability to correctly monitor the level of spillover violence occurring across our Nation's borders will allow us to assess the success of our border security policies and to ensure that we have the correct policies in place in order to stop violence, stop drugs and contraband from spilling into the United States.

Lastly, the Departments will recommend to Congress what additional resources are necessary in order to track, quantify, and report on cross-border violence so that Congress can do its part and ensure that our Federal law enforcement agencies have the tools and the data that they need to do their jobs. Congress must be a willing and able partner in the fight against the ruthless Mexican cartels and the violence that they bring into our American communities.

Madam Speaker, the American people deserve to know the capability of their government to address cross-border violence. This bill does not seek to prove that one party is right or that one party is wrong. It simply seeks to find out the ability of the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security to define, to track, and to understand the amount of violence spilling into the United States from Mexico. In order to achieve a secure border, we must be able to correctly gauge the amount of violence that is spilling into the United States, and I believe that this bill is an important first step in that direction.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 6368 requires the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, no later than 180 days after the enactment of this law, to jointly provide a report to Congress on those Departments' abilities to track, investigate, and quantify cross-border violence along our country's southwest border and to provide recommendations to Congress on how to accurately track, investigate, and quantify cross-border violence.

This seems like a good idea, and I note that the bill provides that we will receive budget recommendations along

with the report, as some have suggested, so that we can reduce the size of government with unspecified cuts, but then we are often surprised to see what those cuts are. Tracking, investigating, and responding appropriately to cross-border violence will require personnel and equipment, which obviously will require increases, not cuts, in the budget.

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CANSECO) for his work on the bill. I look forward to the report, and I recommend the bill's passage.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2012.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

Dear CHAIRMAN SMITH: I am writing in regards to the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Homeland Security over provisions in H.R. 6368, which requires the Department of Justice, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, to provide a report to Congress on the ability to track, investigate, and quantify cross-border violence along the Southwest Border and provide recommendations to Congress.

I understand the importance of advancing this legislation to the House floor in an expeditious manner. Therefore, the Committee on Homeland Security will discharge H.R. 6368 from further consideration. This action is conditional on our mutual understanding and agreement that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security over the subject matter included in this or similar legislation. I request that you urge the Speaker to appoint members of this Committee to any conference committee for consideration of any provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security in the House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation.

I also request that this response and your letter be included in the Committee on the Judiciary report to H.R. 6368 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 13, 2012.

Hon. PETER KING,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN KING, Thank you for your letter dated September 12, 2012, regarding H.R. 6368, the "Border Security Information Improvement Act of 2012," which was referred to the Judiciary Committee on September 10.

I am most appreciative of your decision to forego consideration of H.R. 6368 so that it may move expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you are waiving formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Homeland Security is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in the bill. In addition, if a conference is necessary on this legislation, I will support any request that your committee be represented therein.

Finally, I shall be pleased to include your letter and this letter in the Congressional

Record during floor consideration of H.R. 6368.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SCHMIDT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6368, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to require the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to provide a joint report to Congress on the Departments' ability to track, investigate and quantify cross-border violence along the Southwest Border and provide recommendations to Congress on how to accurately track, investigate, and quantify cross-border violence."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 5044, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5912, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

ANDREW P. CARPENTER TAX ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5044) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any discharge of indebtedness income on education loans of deceased veterans, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 0, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 585]

YEAS—400

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| Ackerman | Baldwin | Berman |
| Adams | Barber | Biggart |
| Aderholt | Barletta | Bilbray |
| Alexander | Barrow | Bilirakis |
| Altmire | Bartlett | Bishop (GA) |
| Amash | Barton (TX) | Bishop (NY) |
| Amodel | Bass (CA) | Bishop (UT) |
| Andrews | Bass (NH) | Black |
| Austria | Becerra | Blackburn |
| Baca | Benishke | Blumenauer |
| Bachmann | Berg | Bonamici |
| Bachus | Berkley | Bonner |